

Atty. Dkt. No. 1-009 AMENDMENT

Appl. No. 10/773.927
PRELIMINARY Amendment dated April 25, 2006
Pursuant to RCE

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Cancelled).
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Cancelled).
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Cancelled).
9. (Cancelled).
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Cancelled).

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13. (Cancelled).

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Original) A method of attaching a plush covering of a toy to a movable artificial eye assembly to effect animation of the covering, wherein each eye of the assembly includes a retaining post and a plush engaging member having a stem with attached crossplate radially spaced from the eye, and the covering includes openings and a flap attached to a portion of each opening, wherein the flap is forked in two branches, each branch having a hole at its free end, the method comprising:

inserting a toy body into the plush covering;

aligning the body with the openings in the plush covering;

inserting the flaps into the body;

disposing the artificial eye assembly within the body;

for each eye of the assembly inserting the first and second branch of the flap between the crossplate and eye, each branch separated by the stem;

stretching the first branch across the back of the eye and placing the hole of the free end onto the retaining post; and

stretching the second branch across the back of the eye, partially overlapping the first branch and placing the hole of the free end onto the retaining post.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

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21. (Cancelled).

Please add new Claims 22 through 40, as follows:

22. (New) An artificial eye assembly for an animated plush toy, comprising:
one or more substantially transparent and partially spherical eye members;
at least one three-dimensional border member forming an eyelid partially
surrounding and unitary with an upper portion of said one or more eye members; and
a plush-engaging member integral with said one or more eye members for
receiving an extension of plush from above said three-dimensional border member and
rearward said one or more eye members with the plush secured at the plush-engaging
member positioning the plush as an eyebrow to the eye assembly.
23. (New) The artificial eye of claim 22, wherein the plush engaging member is integral
with said one or more eye members with the plush being affixed for movement of the
plush with the eye assembly.
24. (New) The artificial eye of claim 23, wherein the plush engaging member is integral
with said one or more eye members with the flexible body cover affixed thereto for
movement of the portion of plush contiguous to the eye assembly.
25. (New) The artificial eye of claim 24, wherein the plush engaging member is integral
with said one or more eye members receiving the portion of the plush contiguous to the
eye assembly being inserted between said three-dimensional border member and the
plush-engaging member extending the plush behind said one or more eye members and
affixed thereto for movement of the plush with the eye assembly.

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26. (New) The artificial eye assembly of claim 22, wherein the plush engaging member is integrally atop said one or more eye members facilitating movement of the portion of plush above the eye assembly for eye closure movements of the plush with the plush being affixed to said one or more eye members.

27. (New) The artificial eye assembly of claim 26, wherein the plush engaging member receives the portion of the plush contiguous to the eye assembly at the plush-engaging member extending the plush behind said one or more eye members and affixed thereto for movement of the plush with the eye assembly.

28. (New) The artificial eye assembly of claim 22, wherein at least one of said substantially transparent and partially spherical eye member comprises a generally convex front surface and a generally planar rear surface located opposite the convex front surface, a concave surface extending into the eye member generally bounded by the rear surface of the eye member, and a pupil member adjacent the concave surface and visible through the convex front surface of the eye member.

29. (New) The artificial eye assembly of claim 28, wherein the pupil member comprises an ellipsoidal member visibly located at the concave surface.

30. (New) The artificial eye assembly of claim 29, further comprising an iris-like member adjacent the concave surface.

31. (New) The artificial eye assembly of claim 30, wherein either the pupil member or iris-like member are painted, molded or inserted into the concave surface.

32. (New) The artificial eye assembly of claim 22, wherein the plush engaging member further comprises:

a shaped member extending from the three-dimensional eyelid member; and

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a retaining post.

33. (New) The artificial eye assembly of claim 32, wherein the retaining post is diametrically opposite the shaped member.

34. (New) The artificial eye assembly of claim 32, wherein the shaped member comprises a stem and a boss for securing the plush engaging member.

35. (New) The artificial eye assembly of claim 32, wherein the shaped member further comprises:

a stem attached to the three-dimensional eyelid member; and
a crossplate with a forward edge.

36. (New) The artificial eye assembly of claim 35, wherein the crossplate is curved to substantially correspond with the radial curvature of the eye member and resembles an eyelid when covered with plush.

37. (New) The artificial eye assembly of claim 22, further comprising a second transparent and spherical eye member, and a rod interconnecting said one or more eye members with the second eye member.

38. (New) The artificial eye assembly of claim 37, wherein the rod is operable to effect coordinated or independent movement of the eye members.

39. (New) A method of attaching a plush covering of a toy to at least one movable artificial eye assembly to effect animation of the plush, wherein each eye of the assembly includes an attached retaining structure above and extending rearward the eye with the plush including a flap thereto, wherein the flap has a opening at its free end, the method comprising:

disposing the artificial eye assembly within the body;

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inserting the flap at the retaining structure above the eye for each at least one movable artificial eye assembly;

extending the flap rearward of the eye and placing the opening of the free end onto the retaining structure attached to the eye and extending rearward of each eye of the assembly.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein each eye of the assembly includes a retaining post and a plush engaging member having a stem with attached crossplate radially spaced from the eye, wherein the flap is forked in two branches, each branch having a opening at its free end, the method further comprising for each eye of the assembly:

inserting the first and second branch of the flap between the crossplate and eye, each branch separated by the stem;

stretching the first branch across the back of the eye and placing the opening of the free end onto the retaining post; and

stretching the second branch across the back of the eye, partially overlapping the first branch and placing the opening of the free end onto the retaining post.